being a continuous cylinder with a diameter substantially equal to that of the elongated mouthpiece tubular portion and which total length exceeds that of said tobacco rod;

the length of the said cylindrical filter member being at least half as great as the length of the tobacco rod and at least one third as great as the length of the said tubular portion of the mouthpiece, the tobacco rod being connected to the elongated mouthpiece with a paper ring overlapping, at least, the surface of said cylindrical filter member, and the fibrous material of the mouthpiece being pressed to such a degree so as to ensure an expression of the tubular portion open-flow area after removal of compressive load under which the tubular portion has been fully compressed.

4. (Amended) A smokers' article characterized in that it comprises a tobacco rod wrapped in a separate sleeve made of cigarette paper, a resilient and elongated mouthpiece which is connected to said rod and has the size of a cardboard mouthpiece and which is made of a pressed fibrous material and includes a filter member arranged on the tobacco rod side and made integral with a tubular portion of said mouthpiece, said filter member being a continuous cylinder with a diameter equal to that of the mouthpiece tubular portion and which total length of said filter member exceeds that of said tobacco rod;

the length of the said cylindrical filter member being at least half as great as the length of the tobacco rod and at least one third as great as the length of the said tubular portion of the mouthpiece, the tobacco rod being connected to the elongated Page 2 — RESPONSE (U.S. Patent Appln.S.N. 09/936,443) V202RT023JAN03/JAN 2003]

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B

mouthpiece with a paper ring overlapping, at least, the surface of said cylindrical filter member, and the fibrous material of the mouthpiece being pressed to such a degree so as to ensure restoration of the tubular portion open flow area after removal of compressive load under which the tubular portion has been fully compressed,

B

wherein an additional filter member is arranged behind said cylindrical filter member inside said mouthpiece tubular portion.

- 5. (Amended) The smokers' article according to claim 1 wherein an additional filter member is made of activated carbon.
- B3
- 7. (Amended) The smokers' article according to claim 1 wherein said resilient and elongated mouthpiece made of a pressed fibrous material has a plasticized outer surface.
- 9. (Amended) A smokers' article characterized in that it comprises a tobacco rod wrapped in a separate sleeve made of cigarette paper, a resilient and elongated mouthpiece which is connected to said rod and has the size of a cardboard mouthpiece and which is made of a pressed fibrous material and includes a filter member arranged on the tobacco rod side and made integral with a tubular portion of said mouthpiece, said filter member being a continuous cylinder with a diameter equal to that of the mouthpiece tubular portion and which total length of said filter member exceeds that of said tobacco rod;

the length of the said cylindrical filter member being at least half as great as the length of the tobacco rod and at least one third as great as the length of the said tubular portion of Page 3 — RESPONSE (U.S. Patent Appln.S.N. 09/936,443) v202RT023JAN03/JAN 2003]



the mouthpiece, the tobacco rod being connected to the elongated mouthpiece with a paper ring overlapping, at least, the surface of said cylindrical filter member, and the fibrous material of the mouthpiece being pressed to such a degree so as to ensure restoration of the tubular portion open flow area after removal of compressive load under which the tubular portion has been fully compressed,

B4

wherein said resilient and elongated mouthpiece made of a pressed fibrous material has a plasticized outer surface,

wherein said resilient and elongated mouthpiece made of a pressed fibrous material with the plasticized outer surface has a ring portion which is not covered with a plasticizer, is arranged behind said paper ring and provides additional air inflow in smoking.

Please add new claims 10 as follows:

- 10. The smokers' article according to claim 9 wherein acetate fiber is used as the material for making said resilient mouthpiece and said cylindrical filter member.
- 11. The smokers' article according to claim 9 wherein an additional filter member is arranged between said tobacco rod and said cylindrical filter member.
- 12. The smokers' article according to claim 9 wherein an additional filter member is made of activated carbon.
- 13. The smokers' article according to claim 9 wherein said resilient and elongated mouthpiece made of a pressed fibrous Page 4 RESPONSE (U.S. Patent Appln.S.N. 09/936,443) V202RT023JAN03/JAN 2003]

material is wrapped in a paper sleeve and wherein a paper ring is connected to the outer surface of said paper sleeve with a glue.

- 14. The smokers' article according to claim 9 wherein a polyvinyl acetate emulsion is used as a plasticizer.
- 15. The smokers' article according to claim 4 wherein acetate fiber is used as the material for making said resilient mouthpiece and said cylindrical filter member.
- 16. The smokers' article according to claim 4 wherein an additional filter member is arranged between said tobacco rod and said cylindrical filter member.
- 17. The smokers' article according to claim 4 wherein an additional filter member is made of activated carbon.
- 18. The smokers' article according to claim 4 wherein said resilient and elongated mouthpiece made of a pressed fibrous material is wrapped in a paper sleeve and wherein a paper ring is connected to the outer surface of said paper sleeve with a glue.
- 19. The smokers' article according to claim 4 wherein said resilient and elongated mouthpiece made of a pressed fibrous material has a plasticized outer surface.
- 20. The smokers' article according to claim 19 wherein a polyvinyl acetate emulsion is used as a plasticizer.

In the drawings:

